

INFORMATION REPORT

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COUNTRY Czechoslovakia

DATE DISTR 10 MAR 52

SUBJECT CKD-Kriwan Plant, Turciansky Svaty Martin

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1. A large new CKD-Kriwan plant for the production of heavy machinery has been under construction at Turciansky Svaty Martin (Q50/C69), since about 1948. The plant is located between the barracks and the paper mill on the left bank of the Turca River. In August 1951 only one building was in use and two to three other buildings were still under construction. The plant is connected with the railway station at Turciansky Svaty Martin by a spur line.
  2. The plant is equipped with electric furnaces for the production of cast iron. The necessary electric current is supplied by means of a special high voltage supply line, probably from Ostrava (P50/059) or from the hydroelectric power plant at Puchov nad Vah (P50/061). The first electric furnace casting was made about 1 May 1951.
  3. At first the plant manufactured heavy parts for cranes. The present production is kept secret, and it is rumored that even the workers do not know what they are producing. It is generally believed, however, that the plant is manufacturing tanks. Special flatcars which the Germans used to transport tanks have been seen in the station at Vruty (Q50/X50) and, according to a railroad employee, the same flatcars were at Turciansky Svaty Martin. The entire plant is guarded by the STB, SNB and militia, and it is forbidden to take pictures within one kilometer of the plant.
  4. Employees of the plant are entitled to special privileges, and new flats are being built for them in one section of Turciansky Svaty Martin. Workers and experts are therefore attracted to work in the plant, and it was rumored that approximately 6,000 workers from Bohemia were to work there. Because of the influx of plant employees the District National Committee at Turciansky Svaty Martin has taken extensive measures to provide housing in the city and surrounding villages. An order was issued that one room was sufficient for two persons. Unused rooms were to be reported so that workers could be billeted in them if necessary. In November 1951 retired persons and persons who were considered politically unreliable were asked by a special commission of the District National Committee to leave their flats and move to distant villages which had been inhabited by Germans. housing conditions are still very poor, despite these measures.
- 25X1 \* Comment: Earlier reports indicate that flatcars of tanks have been shipped to Vruty from the USSR via Cierma nad Tisou. This is a plausible explanation of the presence of these flatcars in Vruty. Diesel run locomotives and steel rollers to be produced during 1951.

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